

Torrance Herald

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A Boost for Recreation

The worth of a city may be judged by the facilities it provides for wholesome recreation and inspiration for young and old. Dedication of the new recreation center Tuesday stands as genuine evidence that Torrance is aware of this truth.

To all who have contributed in their way to the accomplishment of this new center where young and old may spend their leisure hours in worthwhile pursuits, this city owes a debt of gratitude. City officials and the Recreation Commission deserve praise for sound foresight and personal effort and, we think, good use of the taxpayers' funds.

This first building is a start in the direction of an expanded program that will help round out one of the aspects of making the Civic Center on Torrance Boulevard all that it should and can become.

Opinions of Others

Everybody reads their hometown newspapers. They know what is going on in the town but want to see who was caught at it.—*Bridgeport (Neb.) News-Blade.*

It is encouraging to see all of the Communist newspapers, magazines, and news media throughout the world attacking the Peace Corps. No other thing would further our belief that it is effectively countering Communist measures.—*Williams (Ariz.) News.*

Little by little, the problem of what to do with, about, for, and to teenagers is being solved. A mother of three teenage daughters makes the last girl who returns home Saturday night prepare Sunday breakfast for all the family. *Crystal Springs (Miss.) Meteor.*

Historians tell us about the past and economists tell us about the future. Thus only the present is confusing.—*Priest River (Ida.) Times.*

Before you pick up that nice looking young man thumbing a ride, consider this: The FBI reports that two out of five thumbs raised to beg a ride are on file with the police. Still want to give him a lift?—*Calumet (Mich.) News.*

Some 14 million children will be added to the elementary and high school population by 1980. The final outcome between freedom and totalitarianism will most likely be decided by the quality of education these children receive, not how many rockets and nuclear war heads they inherit. —*Leesburg (Fla.) Commercial.*

A Bookman's Notebook

Venerable Publisher Has Some Suggestions

Alfred A. Knopf, the venerable and distinguished publisher, writes in his house organ, *The Borzoi Quarterly*, under the heading *The World Today*:

"Never have the few been able to make such goddam nuisances of themselves to the many. Hence some modest proposals:

"1. That any American woman applying for a passport would have to accompany her application with a recording of her speaking voice. How many meals for how many people have been ruined in good restaurants abroad by the woman at the next table—a stout, middle-aged American matron with a sharp, cutting voice.

"2. That any driver of an automobile which breaks

down on a main highway be fined \$50 regardless of whether he is to blame for what happened or not. After all, guilty of neglect, negligence, or anything else or not, thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of wholly innocent motorists are penalized.

"New York, Oct. 8, 1962—Yom Kippur. The one week-day of the year in which the city seems to be a tolerable place to walk or ride. I suggest, therefore, that the federal law compel every adult to spend at least one week-day a year, the day to be his own choice, either at home or in a place of worship—not in the streets."

Being among the last of the literate and urbane old-line

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"No wonder Junior can't learn anything... these seats aren't comfortable!"

Wonderful Wizards of Washington



REG-MANNING-E.

ROYCE BRIER

Preparation for 'Little' War Opened Moscow's Eyes

An example of the contrast in power between a great, armed nation and a little one trying to arm, is furnished by some figures released by the Pentagon on the Cuban crisis.

It is clear from the figures that had the United States chosen to use all its power, including nuclear, the island could have been paralyzed in a few hours, and occupied probably in 24 hours. But as there were moral reasons for abjuring nuclear weapons on attack, the task might have required several days.

The "mobilization" began Oct. 16, shortly after President Kennedy saw the first reconnaissance picture of missile bases.

First, 156 intercontinental missiles were put on alert. These were mostly in western America, and have ranges up to 6300 miles. Presumably they were for use in a possible armed conflict with the Soviet Union.

They could also be used against the Cuban bases, but there were other, and doubtless less dangerous, techniques available.

For the United States immediately put into the air large flights of B-52 and B-47 bombers of the Strategic Air Command. Lest they be caught on the ground by a surprise Soviet attack, they stayed aloft 24 hours, and each was replaced by another bomber before landing.

Altogether about 300,000 men of all services were alerted, 100,000 of them Army combat units—infantry, armored and airborne. This probably means paratroopers were in the air around the clock. One-third of the total comprised aircraft and missile personnel, and another third, Marines and Navy personnel in 180 ships. Hundreds of anti-air-

craft batteries were concentrated in the southeast from as far away as the Seattle area.

Excepting the ICBMs, all this of course was only mobilization for a "small" war confined to the Caribbean area. The Pentagon release does not mention Polaris missiles, nor U-2 reconnaissance flights.

It was recently noted by overseas observers that the reconnaissance pictures impressed European military experts, who were not aware of how sharply such pictures could pinpoint missile installations. They were so good even laymen could discern their sinister character, and Mr. Kennedy got no back-talk from Moscow, challenging their authenticity.

It is unlikely Khrushchev's intelligence overlooked the rapidity and magnitude of the American buildup. Had he elected to defy it, he could perceive Cuba would be straightaway overrun, and the risk of precipitating World War III was greatly expanded. The United States has never before been ready for a war, and Comrade Khrushchev can thank Comrade Stalin's post-1945 attitude for that.

James Dorais

Movement to 'Equalize' National Education Seen

The parents' revolt against "the experts know best" attitude of professional educationists that swept Dr. Max Rafferty into the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction has sparked demands from the experts—including Governor Brown, who supported Dr. Rafferty's opponent—that the office be appointive.

Such a change, if adopted, would, of course, negate the basic issue of the successful Rafferty campaign: the desire of parents to exercise a meaningful degree of control of policies affecting the education of their children.

In Washington, D.C., a new Federal Commissioner of Education, Francis Keppel, former dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has been appointed by President Kennedy. According to the authoritative Christian Science Monitor, he is a member of the New Frontier in-group, and is expected to bring strong leadership in support of Administration measures to assume federal control of the country's educational systems through a

program of federal financial grants-in-aid.

To quote the Monitor: "He is expected to sympathize with the educational problem of the big-city schools, which are greatly in need of aid. At the present time, state aid is distributed on an equalization basis which means that schools in the big cities receive relatively little in comparison with their needs."

The reason big-city school systems receive less state funds, proportionately, than suburban and rural systems is that the cities have a larger property tax base, per school child. State monies are intentionally allocated in a manner to equalize educational opportunity among districts of varying local wealth.

Hitherto, the strongest argument for federal aid to education has been that federal tax collections could be used to equalize educational opportunity among states of varying wealth. California, for example, would contribute to Mississippi, on the grounds that it is in California's interest for Mississippi's

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Christmas in Far Lands Excites World Traveler

Charles Dickens ends his immortal "Christmas Carol," referring to the generation of Ebenezer Scrooge. "For it was said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well."

The world I cover, even under the persistent threat of atheism, knows how to keep a Christmas well.

Out of the earliest recordings of history Christmas has been a German tradition.

It was Father Josef Mohr who gave Christmas the immortal carol, "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" . . . Silent Night.

The "Christ Kind," or "Kris Kringle," is an original German custom of toys from a fairyland forest that give life to "Christmaskt" or "Christmas Fair."

The inspiring "Tannenbaum," decorated and embellished in utmost secrecy by Mother, is lit at the appropriate moment before the children's enchanted excitement.

The French begin the celebration of Christmas with a midnight mass of traditional splendor, followed by the Reveillon, an after supper in the home.

No gifts are exchanged, as is our custom, at Christmas . . . this is reserved for New Year's day, with parties and festivities at the highest peak of the holiday season.

The Christmas ends with the Feast of Kings on Epiphany, Jan. 6, with the cutting of the customary cake, "Le Gâteau des Rois."

Christmas in the Eternal City is a spiritual pageant of pomp and panoply of the Holy Mass.

Shepherds enter Rome from the surrounding hills, playing their pipes and pastoral flutes at the shrines of the Blessed Virgin . . . and before all the carpenters' shops in the city.

The "Praesepe" takes the place of the Christmas tree . . . and is made of wood, cork, plaster, paper-mache or such other materials . . . in the form of the great drama of the Nativity . . . angels, sheep, apostles, kings . . . and celebrated to the tune of the immortal "O Adeste Fideles."

In nearby Mexico "The Posada" or "Resting Place" is at the center of the Christmas observance to commemorate the journey and hardships of the Holy Family on the first Christmas eve.

Elaborate plays are given from the Mummies and Miracle Players of old Spain.

The children are thrilled with the "Pinata," a homemade clay jar, covered with paper and tinsel to resemble faces, animals, etc., and filled with toys, gifts and sweets.

Traditionally the jar is swung from the end of a stick, while the children,

blindfolded, scramble for the spilling contents.

It is said that the more you persecute people with faith in God, the more they grow in their faith. Christmas in Russia is a living confirmation of that fact today.

Even in the shadows of the Kremlin wall, the Christian processions of singers of the "Kolyada," an ancient yule song, revive the spirit of Christianity. Many of our modern hymns came from the Russian "Kolyada."

The most popular Christmas Eve festival in Russia is the traditional "Five Piles of Grain." A live hen is brought into the room at the stroke of midnight and placed on the floor.

The amusement is derived from the hen's sleepy befuddlement as it circles around five small piles of grain, marked "Marriage, Wealth, Poverty, Unmarried Freedom, Death."

This gay but superstitious custom typifies pretty much the Orthodox way of even serious worship.

The magic of the Nordic Christmas reveals itself in the Swedish "Julafest" . . . Christmas eve.

Saint Lucia's day, "Saint Lucy," opens the season on Dec. 13. Torchlight processions, decorated sleighs, mark the customary pilgrimage to country churches at 6:30 a.m. Christmas day.

The "Jul-Docka," straw dolls and chicken . . . the medieval Saint Lucy wearing a halo of seven lighted candles, bearing a tray of coffee and holiday cookies . . . make Julafest a rich holiday experience.

Switzerland is the land of Christmas and Santa Claus. To Swiss children Dec. 5 is like our Christmas eve.

It is here that St. Nicholas was born, in the person of the sainted Bishop Nicholas of Myra, who came to Zurich from his birthplace of Patras, Asia Minor.

The coming of St. Nicholas is heralded in the traditional processions, led by cross bearers and banny boys, choir and clergy, wearing the ancient high-pointed hoods and fur-trimmed robes.

In the larger cities the "Semiclaus" is welcomed through street parades, with attending church dignitaries, masked grotesquely to the delight of the children.

Whether it is "Tannenbaum," "Nuit de Noel," "Jul-Nisse" as in Denmark, the "Boar's Head" in Oxford, England, "Sint Nicklass Avond" in Holland, "The Wiliam" in Poland, or the "Midnight Carols in the U.S." . . . Christmas lives in prayer, in song, in tribute . . . to the birth of Christ throughout the civilized world.

Our Man Hoppe

No Nudes Is Bad Nudes, He Says

—Art Hoppe

We're going to have a \$30 million National Culture Center in Washington. Thanks to the warm support of Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Eisenhower, and all the little defense contractors everywhere if they know what's good for them, I'm against it.

I know Mr. Kennedy says we need one because of the Russians. "Of course, we do not have to point to them to indicate the importance of this work," he said, "but it is of significance that they have made a major effort in this field." So I'm against it.

Look where it got the Russians. Mr. Khrushchev says let's have a little freedom of expression around here. And all of the artists happily dash off to splatter up their canvases. Mr. Khrushchev views the results and blows his stack. "Such pictures!" he snorts. "You cannot tell if they have been painted by a man or have been daubed by the tail of a donkey!"

And the artists, says Moscow Radio, warmly thanked Mr. Khrushchev for his "valuable advice and critical comments." Honest.

Now I know, as Mr. Kennedy implies, that we've got to have more national culture than the Russians to win the cold war. But frankly, I don't think we've got the right kind of artists.

Take J. Artmedes Springbourne, a neo-abstract Dadaist with inner cubistic leanings. He is just proudly hanging his latest work, "Some Second Thoughts on the Aspirations of Man," in our new National Cultural Center. And along comes Senator Hogfrier (Snappin' Sam) Headbone on his annual inspection of our national culture.

"What's that, Son?" says the senator suspiciously. "I think you got it upside down."

"I can't tell you," says Mr. Springbourne, blushing with pleasure as he tries inverting his painting, "how much I appreciate your valuable advice."

"Still don't look like national culture to me, Boy," says the senator, cocking his head. "Looks more like a fried egg painted by the hind quarters of an old drunken nanny goat. With the D. T.'s. And anyway, the yolk's busted."

"I wish to thank you warmly for your most constructive critical comments," cries Mr. Springbourne happily as he removes his work and jumps up and down on it. "I shall go home to try again."

"You do that, Son. And this time get some national culture in it. Like maybe a flag. Or a little barefoot lad with freckles a-going fishing. We got a cold war to win, Boy."

No sir. It's not only unbelievable, it's frightening. I figure if Washington tries to mobilize art to win the cold war, as do the Russians, we may well lose both.

Oh, I can see the catalogue of our 1964 National Culture Exhibition now: 32 American flags, 16 views of the Statue of Liberty and the blueprints of a tractor factory. With not a nude in the lot. It could destroy our will to resist.

Personally, I like our national culture just the way it is now: We haven't got any. We've got what I like and we've got what you like. And my culture is none of the Government's business. Let's keep it that way. Because, after all, culture is only a question of taste. Which, in a democracy, is what the other person hasn't got any of.